AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph at Page 10, lines 9 – 19 with the following amended paragraph:

To further demonstrate the principles and advantages of this invention, consider configuration command **TEST** of Figure 4A. In this embodiment, a first command element 421 can have values ["A"] "AA" or ["B"] "BB" and the value specified in the configuration command is assigned to argument ten. A second command element 422 can be either a number, or a non-number string. If the value of the second command element is a number, the value is assigned to argument one. If the value of the second command element is a non-number string, the value is assigned to argument two.

Please replace the paragraph at Page 12, lines 20-33 with the following amended paragraph:

In the example configuration command of Figure 4A, second command element 421 422 can be either a number or the non-number string. Consequently, parameter flags in begin option node 411 also is set to single branch. Consequently, when a match is detected and processing passes through a next option node back to begin option node 411, begin option node 411 transfers to end option node 412, which performs any necessary clean up. End option node 412 transfers to an end of line EOL that writes the parsed configuration command to system configuration database 260. The configuration of the system using the data from the parsed configuration command is the same as that in the prior art and so is known to those of skill in the art.

Please replace the Table at Page 14, lines 1-7 with the following amended Table:

TABLE 3

TEST {B, 2, S, ID1, 0} AA, <10, AA> {N, ID1}
BB, <10, BB> {N, ID1} {E, ID1}
[(] {B, 2, S, ID2, 0} <n>, <1,<n>> {N, ID2}

string, <2, string> {N, ID2} {E, ID2}

Please replace the paragraph at Page 14, line 19 – Page 15, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

In the embodiment of Figure 4D, the begin option node template for begin option node 401 is written with a "B" to identify the node as a begin option node of linear node 451 for first command element ~~420~~ 421. Following the "B," is a number that represents the number of branches associated with begin option node 401, which is two. Next is parameter flags, which is set to single in this example. Following parameter flags is an identifier for linear node 451, which is explained more completely below. Finally, a bypass flag is either set to true or false to indicate that linear node 451 includes a bypass. Thus, in this implementation, in general, a begin option node template is written in linear command regeneration template as: